

REMARKS

Claims 3-7, 10, and 13 are pending in this application, of which claims 10 and 13 are independent.

Claims 2, 7-8, and 12 have been cancelled. Claims 10 and 13 have been amended to recite features of the cancelled claims. Claims 3-7 have been amended to depend from claim 10.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

Claims 2-6 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Minamino et al. (hereafter Minamino)(US 6,657,929), as applied to the Office Action dated August 15, 2007.

We submit that Minamino does not disclose a frequency divider connected to the phase comparator, for generating a divisional signal by dividing the oscillation signal by a predetermined dividing ratio, and providing the divisional signal to the phase comparator so that the phase comparator generates a phase difference signal in accordance with the difference between the phase of the wobble signal and the phase of the divisional signal, wherein the frequency divider changes the dividing ratio in accordance with the cycle of the wobble signal, as recited in amended claim 10, from which claims 3-6 depend. Rather, Minamino discloses the wobble PLL detection circuit 15b that generated a wobble PLL hold signal or a wobble usable signal based 3 on the comparison between a time period t1 (or a time period t2) and a low level period of an output clock of the wobble PLL circuit 14. Minamino does not use the frequency divider to change the dividing ratio in accordance with the cycle of the wobble signal in order to generate a clock signal corresponding to different types of disc media, such as DVD-R/RW and DVD+R/RW, having difference recording formats, thereby avoiding an increase in the circuit scale of the clock generating device (see page 14, lines 7-12 of the present specification). Accordingly, we submit that claims 3-6 are not obvious over Minamino and should be allowed.

Claims 7-10 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Minamino in view of Katoh (US 6,088,311), as applied to the Office Action dated August 15, 2007.

We submit that neither Minamino nor Katoh, alone or in any proper combination, discloses or suggests a frequency divider connected to the phase comparator, for generating a divisional signal by dividing the oscillation signal by a predetermined dividing ratio, and providing the divisional signal to the phase comparator so that the phase comparator generates a phase difference signal in accordance with the difference between the phase of the wobble signal and the phase of the divisional signal, wherein the frequency divider changes the dividing ratio in accordance with the cycle of the wobble signal, as recited in amended independent claims 10 and 13. Rather, as discussed above, Minamino describes a wobble PLL detection circuit. Katoh discloses the channel PLL 1a including the $1/n$ frequency divider 36n that divides a clock signal output from the VCO 11. Katoh's $1/n$ frequency divider 36n does not change a dividing ratio in accordance with the cycle of a wobble signal. Accordingly, we submit that neither Minamino nor Katoh, alone or in any proper combination, disclose the clock generating device of independent claims 10 and 13.

For at least this reason, we submit that independent claims 10 and 13 are patentable over Minamino in view of Katoh. Since claim 7 depends from claim 10, claim 7 is patentable for at least the same reasons that claim 10 is patentable.


It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

Please apply any other charges to Deposit Account No. 50-4189, referencing Attorney Docket No. 35901-079001.

Date: _____

4/21/08

Respectfully submitted,



J. Robin Rohlicek
Reg. No. 43,349

Customer No. 69713
Occhiuti Rohlicek & Tsao LLP
10 Fawcett Street
Cambridge, MA 02138
Telephone: (617) 500-2502
Facsimile: (617) 500-2499
34060.doc